

Claim Amendments

1. (Currently amended) A seal for use adjacent to a rotating surface and a stationary surface and comprising:

a ring having a sealing surface for substantially sealing between at least a portion of said stationary surface and said sealing surface, said ring being spaced from said rotating surface and further having a race engagement surface thereon separate from said sealing surface;

a first race adapted for engagement with at least a portion of said rotating surface and rotation therewith;

a second race adapted for engagement with said race engagement surface;

and

a plurality of bearing elements disposed between said first and second races.

2. (Original) The seal of claim 1 further comprising a bearing cage defining a plurality of bearing openings therein disposed between said first and second races, wherein said bearing elements are disposed in said bearing openings.

3. (Original) The seal of claim 1 wherein said sealing surface is an outer peripheral surface of said ring.

4. (Original) The seal of claim 1 wherein:

said first race has a substantially planar first bearing surface thereon;

said second race has a substantially planar second bearing surface thereon;

and

said first and second bearing surfaces are substantially parallel.

5. (Previously presented) The seal of claim 4 wherein said bearing elements engage said first and second bearing surfaces.

6. (Original) The seal of claim 4 wherein said bearing elements are rollers.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Previously presented) The seal of claim 35 wherein said grooves are substantially concentric.

10. (Previously presented) The seal of claim 35 wherein ends of said annular portions are spaced from bottom surfaces of said grooves.

11. (Previously presented) The seal of claim 35 wherein said race engagement surface of said ring is between said grooves.

12. (Original) The seal of claim 1 wherein said bearing elements are rollers.

13. (Original) The seal of claim 1 wherein:

said race engagement surface is one of a pair of race engagement surfaces disposed on opposite sides of said ring;

said first race is one of a pair of first races engaging different portions of said rotating surface on opposite sides of said ring;

said second race is one of a pair of second races disposed on opposite sides of said ring and engaging a corresponding one of said race engagement surfaces; and

said bearing elements are disposed between corresponding ones of said first and second races.

14. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a stationary housing having a housing sealing surface therein;

a rotor rotatably disposed in said housing;

a ring having a ring sealing surface thereon for substantially sealing along at least a portion of said housing sealing surface, said ring being spaced from said rotor and further having a bearing race engagement surface thereon separate from said ring sealing surface;

a first bearing race adapted for engagement with at least a portion of said rotor and rotatable therewith;

a second bearing race adapted for engagement with said race engagement surface;

a bearing cage defining a plurality of bearing openings therein disposed between said first and second bearing races; and

a plurality of bearing elements disposed in said bearing openings.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein:

said housing sealing surface is substantially cylindrical; and

said ring sealing surface is substantially concentric with said housing sealing surface.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said ring sealing surface is an outer peripheral surface of said ring.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein:
said first bearing race has a substantially planar first bearing surface thereon;
said second bearing race has a substantially planar second bearing surface thereon; and
said first and second bearing surfaces are substantially parallel.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said bearing elements engage said first and second bearing surfaces.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said bearing elements are rollers.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein:
said grooves have bottom surfaces which face one another; and
ends of said annular portions and said bottom surfaces of said grooves define a gap therebetween.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said race engagement surface of said ring is between said grooves.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said bearing elements are rollers.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein:

said race engagement surface is one of a pair of race engagement surfaces disposed on opposite sides of said ring;

said first bearing race is one of a pair of first bearing races engaging different portions of said rotor on opposite sides of said ring;

said second bearing race is one of a pair of second bearing races disposed on opposite sides of said ring and engaging a corresponding one of said race engagement surfaces; and

said bearing cage is one of a pair of bearing cages disposed between corresponding ones of said first and second races with bearing elements disposed in the bearing openings of the bearing cages.

26. (Previously presented) A seal for use adjacent to a rotating race engagement surface and a stationary race engagement surface and comprising:

a first race adapted for engagement with one of said rotating race engagement surface and said stationary race engagement surface, said first race defining outer and inner annular portions;

a second race adapted for engagement with the other of said rotating race engagement surface and stationary race engagement surface, said second race being disposed between said annular portions of said first race; and

a plurality of bearing elements disposed between said first and second races.

27. (Original) The seal of claim 26 further comprising a bearing cage defining a plurality of bearing openings therein disposed between said first and second races, wherein said bearing elements are disposed in said bearing openings.

28. (Original) The seal of claim 26 wherein:
said first race has a substantially planar first bearing surface thereon;
said second race has a substantially planar second bearing surface thereon;
and
said first and second bearing surfaces are substantially parallel.

29. (Original) The seal of claim 28 wherein said bearing elements engage said first and second bearing surfaces.

30. (Original) The seal of claim 28 wherein said bearing elements are rollers.

31. (Cancelled).

32. (Previously presented) The seal of claim 37 wherein said annular portions are substantially concentric.

33. (Previously presented) The seal of claim 37 wherein ends of said annular portions are sized to be spaced from bottom surfaces of said grooves.

34. (Original) The seal of claim 26 wherein said bearing elements are rollers.

35. (Previously presented) A seal for use adjacent to a rotating surface and a stationary surface and comprising:

a ring having a sealing surface for substantially sealing between at least a portion of said stationary surface and said sealing surface, said ring further having a race engagement surface thereon and defining a pair of annular grooves therein;

a first race adapted for engagement with at least a portion of said rotating surface and rotation therewith, said first race comprising a pair of annular portions, each of said portions extending into one of said grooves;

a second race adapted for engagement with said race engagement surface;

and

a plurality of bearing elements disposed between said first and second races.

36. (Previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

a stationary housing having a housing sealing surface therein;

a rotor rotatably disposed in said housing;

a ring having a ring sealing surface thereon for substantially sealing along at least a portion of said housing sealing surface and further having a bearing race engagement surface thereon and defining a pair of substantially concentric annular grooves therein;

a first bearing race adapted for engagement with at least a portion of said rotor and rotatable therewith, said first bearing race comprising a pair of annular portions, each of said portions extending into one of said grooves;

a second bearing race adapted for engagement with said race engagement surface;

a bearing cage defining a plurality of bearing openings therein disposed between said first and second bearing races; and

a plurality of bearing elements disposed in said bearing openings.

37. (Previously presented) A seal for use adjacent to a rotating race engagement surface and a stationary race engagement surface, wherein one of said rotating race engagement surface and said stationary race engagement surface defines a pair of annular grooves therein, comprising:

a first race adapted for engagement with one of said rotating race engagement surface and said stationary race engagement surface, said first race defining outer and inner annular portions, each of said annular portions extending into one of said grooves;

a second race adapted for engagement with the other of said rotating race engagement surface and stationary race engagement surface, said second race being disposed between said annular portions of said first race; and

a plurality of bearing elements disposed between said first and second races.

38. (New) A seal for use adjacent to a rotating surface and a stationary surface and comprising:

a ring having a sealing surface for substantially sealing between at least a portion of said stationary surface and said sealing surface, said ring further having a race engagement surface thereon separate from said sealing surface;

a first race adapted for engagement with at least a portion of said rotating surface and rotation therewith, said first race defining a recess therein;

a second race adapted for engagement with said race engagement surface;
and

a plurality of bearing elements disposed between said first and second races, wherein said second race and bearing elements are disposed in said recess.

39. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a stationary housing having a housing sealing surface therein;

a rotor rotatably disposed in said housing;

a ring having a ring sealing surface thereon for substantially sealing along at least a portion of said housing sealing surface and further having a bearing race engagement surface thereon separate from said ring sealing surface;

a first bearing race adapted for engagement with at least a portion of said rotor and rotatable therewith, said first bearing race defining a recess therein;

a second bearing race adapted for engagement with said race engagement surface;

a bearing cage defining a plurality of bearing openings therein disposed between said first and second bearing races; and

a plurality of bearing elements disposed in said bearing openings, wherein said second bearing race, bearing cage and bearing elements are disposed in said recess.